



State and Guardian Angels partner in online safety program

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ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) _ The Guardian Angels is getting a \$200,000 state grant to teach children around the state about the dangers of online predators, Gov. George Pataki's office said Monday.

The money will go to the Guardian Angels' CyberAngels program, one of the oldest online safety education programs in the country. Program directors work directly with schools and libraries, conducting workshops and seminars and providing lesson plans to help teachers educate students about Internet dangers.

"When the Guardian Angels was founded in 1979, the safety risks facing New Yorkers were on the streets and in the subways. Yet today our children face even greater threats in the online world from pedophiles and cyber-bullies," Angels founder Curtis Sliwa said.

In conjunction with the Guardian Angels, a nonprofit group originally formed 27 years ago to fight street crime in New York City, the state's Office of Cyber Security and Critical Infrastructure will work with community groups to teach children about online safety. It will also teach parents how to better monitor their children's online activities, Pataki's office said.

Teachers will also be taught to make sure students' work has not been plagiarized and learn how to detect and stop cyber-bullying: attacks on children by other children through e-mail, instant messaging or rumors on Web sites.